AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17, as follows:

For example, the objects to be washed can be dried by own-heat drying if the rinsing liquid is heated in a partial programme step "clear rinse" and thus the objects to be washed which have undergone a hot clear rinse are dried by themselves by the self-heat of the objects to be washed which has thus built up during the drying process. In order to achieve this own-heat drying, the rinsing liquid is heated to a certain temperature in a heat exchanger in the "clear rinse" partial programme step and applied to the objects to be washed by means of spraying devices. As a result of the relatively high temperature of the rinsing liquid in the "clear rinse" partial programme step of usually 65°C to 75°C, ~~it is achieved that~~ a sufficiently large quantity of heat is transferred to the objects to be washed so that water adhering to said objects to be washed vaporises as a result of the heat stored in the objects to the washed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 24, as follows:

A disadvantage in the heating systems described above ~~according to the prior art described further above~~ is that ~~the~~ heating of the rinsing liquid is associated with a high energy requirement, and the thermal energy required for each heating phase must be produced anew by means of electrical heating elements. The known heating systems also have the disadvantage that ~~the~~ heating of the rinsing liquid in the "clear rinse" partial programme step and the processes in the "drying" partial programme step are themselves associated with a high energy requirement and the thermal energy required is lost after the drying process.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, which starts with "This object is solved by the...".

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19, as follows:

As a result of using a heat tube, the objects to be treated only require substantially less heating compared with the prior art, e.g. in dishwashers in the "clear rinse" partial programme step. This means a substantial saving of energy. The cooling of the air lowers its moisture absorption capacity and the moisture fraction of the air is precipitated as condensate. As a result of the heating of the air, ~~it~~its moisture absorption capacity is increased again on each passage through the conduit system which leads to an improvement in the drying result and/or shortening of the drying time. In the closed air system any exchange of contaminated air from the surroundings is completely eliminated, preventing any back contamination of the items to be treated. The present invention provides a dishwasher which can be used to efficiently clean and dry objects to be washed in a washing container and to keep the associated energy expenditure as low as possible.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9, as follows:

It is furthermore common to all the exemplary ~~embodiment~~embodiments shown that a heater 15, 15', 15", 15'" is arranged in the pipe 7, 7', 7", 7'" from the other end 12, 12', 12", 12'" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" to an inlet 8, 8', 8", 8'" of the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'". Should the heating of the air by the heat tube

10, 10', 10", 10'" not be sufficient, the air is additionally heated by the heater 15, 15', 15", 15'" to ensure the drying function. Despite the additional energy consumption for the heater 15, 15', 15", 15'", a saving of energy is achieved compared with the prior art described previously.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, as follows:

It is known that a dishwasher 1, 1', 1", 1'" has a washing method whose programme run consists of at least one partial programme step "pre-wash", a partial programme step "clean", at least one partial programme step "intermediate rinse", a partial programme step "clear rinse" and a partial program step "dry". According to the invention and in the exemplary embodiments explained, during the "dry" partial programme step air from the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'" is passed through the conduit system 4, 4', 4", ~~2'~~4'" and back into the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'". The fan 9, 9', 9", 9'" is switched on for this purpose. The air path is indicated by the arrows A, B and C. On the "cold side" 11, 11', 11", 11'" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" a large amount of thermal energy is removed from the air passed by the fan 9, 9', 9", 9'" via the pipe 5,

5', 5", 5'" to one end 11, 11', 11", 11'", to the "cold side" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" so that this is very severely cooled and since the cold air has a substantially lower moisture absorption capacity, a large fraction of the moisture condenses. Heat conducting fins 13, 13', 13", 13'" are provided for good heat conduction of the air to the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'". The heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" passes the heat removed from the moist air (sensible heat) and the heat produced by the condensation (latent heat) to its other end 12, 12', 12", 12'", the "warm side" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'". The now very dry air passes via the pipe 6, 6', 6", 6'" from one end 11, 11', 11", 11'" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" to the other end 12, 12', 12", 12'" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" and is heated there. Heat conducting fins 14, 14', 14", 14'" are provided for good heat conduction from the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" to the air. The now heated and very dry air is now passed via the pipe 7, 7', 7", 7'" from the other end 12, 12', 12", 12'" of the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'" to the inlet 8, 8', 8", 8'" of the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'" and thus back into the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'". The

heated air introduced into the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'" is now substantially drier and has a high absorption capacity for moisture. It rises upwards in the washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'" and absorbs the residual moisture on the objects to be washed. As has already been described above, it is now fed back to the heat tube 10, 10', 10", 10'".

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26, as follows:

The present invention provides a dishwasher 1, 1', 1"~~,~~ 1'" which can be used to efficiently clean and dry objects to be washed in a washing container 2, 2', 2", 2'" and to keep the associated energy expenditure as low as possible.